

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for controlling access to digital information, comprising:
identifying a location identity attribute that defines at least a specific
5 geographic location;
generating a geolocking key based at least in part on said location identity
attribute; and
encrypting said digital information using said geolocking key, wherein said
encrypted digital information can be accessed only at said specific geographic location.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises
identifying at least a location value and a proximity value.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said location value corresponds to a
location of an intended recipient appliance of said digital information.
- 15 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said location value further comprises a
latitude and longitude dimension.
5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said proximity value corresponds to a
zone that encompasses said location.
6. The method of Claim 2, further comprising generating a shape parameter
based on said proximity value, said shape parameter defining a shape of a region that
20 encompasses said specific geographic location.
7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising generating an initial key based
on said shape parameter.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising generating said geolocking key based on said initial key, said encrypting step further comprising encrypting said digital information using said geolocking key.

5 9. The method of Claim 6, further comprising packaging said shape parameter with said encrypted digital information.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising transmitting said shape parameter and said encrypted digital information to an end user.

10 11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising selecting preview information and including said preview information with said digital information prior to said encrypting step.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing said encrypted digital information in a fixed format including at least one of CD-ROM, DVD, diskette, videocassette, and tape.

15 13. The method of Claim 9, wherein said transmitting step further comprises transmitting said encrypted digital information in electronic form via at least one of telephone line, video cable, satellite broadcast, fiber optic, and wireless.

14. A method for recovering encrypted digital information, comprising:
retrieving location data identifying a specific geographic location of a playback appliance;
20 accessing geolocked data including said encrypted digital information and a shape parameter defining a shape of a region that encompasses said specific geographic location;
generating a geolocking key using at least said shape parameter and said location data; and
25 decrypting said digital information using said geolocking key.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said location data further comprises a latitude and longitude dimension.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein said generating step further comprises generating an initial key based on said shape parameter.

5 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said generating step further comprises generating said geolocking key based on said initial key.

18. The method of Claim 14, wherein said accessing step further comprises receiving said geolocked data from a remote sender.

10 19. The method of Claim 14, wherein said geolocked data further comprises preview information.

20. The method of Claim 14, wherein said accessing step further comprises retrieving said geolocked data from a storage medium including at least one of CD-ROM, DVD, diskette, videocassette, and tape.

15 21. The method of Claim 14, wherein said accessing step further comprises receiving said geolocked data in electronic form via at least one of telephone line, video cable, satellite broadcast, fiber optic, and wireless.

22. An apparatus for controlling access to digital information, comprising:
a processor having memory adapted to store software instructions operable to cause said processor to execute the following functions:

identifying a location identity attribute that defines at least a specific geographic location;

generating an geolocking key based at least in part on said location identity attribute; and

encrypting said digital information using said geolocking key, wherein said encrypted digital information can be accessed only at said specific geographic location.

23. The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein said identifying function further comprises identifying at least a location value and a proximity value.

24. The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said location value corresponds to a location of an intended recipient appliance of said digital information.

25. The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said location value further comprises a latitude and longitude dimension.

26. The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said proximity value corresponds to a zone that encompasses said location.

27. The apparatus of Claim 23, further comprising the function of generating a shape parameter based on said proximity value, said shape parameter defining a shape of a region that encompasses said specific geographic location.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising the function of generating an initial key based on said shape parameter.

29. The apparatus of Claim 28, further comprising the function of generating said geolocking key based on said initial key.

30. The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising the function of packaging said shape parameter with said encrypted digital information.

31. The apparatus of Claim 30, further comprising the function of transmitting said shape parameter and said encrypted digital information to an end user.

5 32. The apparatus of Claim 22, further comprising the function of selecting preview information and including said preview information with said digital information prior to executing said encrypting function.

10 33. The apparatus of Claim 22, further comprising a server coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate said encrypted digital information to end users over a network connection.

34. An apparatus for controlling access to digital information, comprising:
a processor having memory adapted to store software instructions operable to cause said processor to execute the following functions:

15 retrieving location data identifying a specific geographic location of said apparatus;

accessing geolocked data including said encrypted digital information and a shape parameter defining a shape of a region that encompasses said specific geographic location;

20 generating a geolocking key using at least said shape parameter and said location data; and

decrypting said digital information using said geolocking key.

35. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein said location data further comprises a latitude and longitude dimension.

25 36. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein said generating function further comprises generating an initial key based on said shape parameter.

37. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein said generating function further comprises generating said geolocking key based on said initial key.

38. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein said accessing function further comprises receiving said geolocked data from a remote sender.

5 39. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein said geolocked data further comprises preview information.

40. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein said accessing function further comprises retrieving said geolocked data from a storage medium including at least one of CD-ROM, DVD, diskette, videocassette, and tape.

10 41. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein said accessing function further comprises receiving said geolocked data in electronic form via at least one of telephone line, video cable, satellite broadcast, fiber optic, and wireless.

15 42. The apparatus of Claim 34, further comprising a GPS receiver coupled to said processor and adapted to provide said location data.